

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Ronal W. Serpas**

---



Captain Glenn Cramer  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**October 1, 2003**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Captain Glenn Cramer**  
**(360) 753-5299**

## **Washington State Patrol and Department of Transportation Set Mutual Priorities for Coming Year**

Washington State Patrol Chief Ronal W. Serpas and Department of Transportation Secretary Douglas B. MacDonald, along with key members of their management and command staff, met earlier this week in Olympia to set mutual priorities for the next twelve months. Expedient incident response to reduce congestion, communicating problem traffic spots to the public quickly and effectively, and data sharing were three of the top goals for the coming year.

The two organizations began to meet regularly in 2001, and in February 2002 signed a **Joint Operations Policy Statement** where both agencies agreed to take their collaboration to new heights: to share communications systems and facilities and work closer together on issues of highway safety.

At this week's meeting, ideas for greater collaboration were discussed, including the top priority of mobility on Washington roadways. Studies show that a significant portion of traffic congestion is due to collisions and road closures. Both agencies agreed last year to fund the use of photogrammetry cameras which enable much of the accident investigation to be handled away from the scene, allowing roadways to be cleared much more quickly. Staff were trained this past year in this new technology. Its use and effectiveness will be a top priority in the next twelve months.

Both agencies also set a top priority of communications, to get information to citizens as quickly as possible of road conditions or closures. "Communicating to the public areas where there are closures or poor driving conditions due to weather or traffic is essential," explained WSP Deputy Chief Lowell Porter. "While safety is our top priority, it is also important for the sake of mobility to let citizens know as soon as possible if there are areas they should avoid. We will make that a priority this year."

In addition, both agencies agreed that data sharing, including information about real-time traffic flow and surveillance video, is a top priority.

Both Chief Serpas and Secretary MacDonald commended staff for their collaborative efforts. "Both organizations are doing so much in the area of mobility and safety and we overlap in so many areas," Secretary MacDonald said. "Collaboration at this level is an excellent use of resources and an effective means to giving the public enhanced services," Chief Serpas concluded.

###